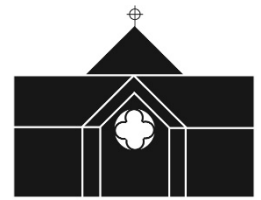




IN TOUCH

Nurses' Memorial Chapel Newsletter



April 2021 Website: www.cnmc.org.nz email: chapelfoc@gmail.com

Facebook : Nurses' Memorial Chapel

Hello to all our Members and Supporters

With holidays just a distant memory, and what seemed like a very short summer now over, it is time to start looking ahead to winter and bringing out the warm clothes

AGM – ALL WELCOME

Saturday 22nd May – 10am

RSA

55 Bellvue Avenue

Papanui

10am

We will have a sales table at the AGM
*Stand for all Time – signed by Anna Rogers \$35,
cards and note cards \$5 pack, and tote bags \$5*

EFTPOS available
Morning tea will be served following the AGM

Chapel Capacity

Despite a further multitude of meetings there is no progress on the decision regarding numbers in the Chapel. Each time a meeting is held there seems to be a further requirement to meet, regarding amendments to our fire policy, smoke detectors etc.

Whilst we have had a number functions in the Chapel none have required more than 50 attendants. We are forever hopeful that this will be sorted soon.

Application to Helping Hands

In June 2020 an application to Helping Hands was made last year to secure funds to assist with the cost of the development of a new video. It was soon realized by Liz Grant that our current video needed a complete revamp. Therefore, the decision was made to start afresh with a completely new resource.

An application was made to helping Hands for which we were successful.

Community Capability and Resilience Fund Application

During lock down in 2020 the chapel was closed to the public and remained so over the winter months. This

precautionary step was taken to protect our volunteers, the majority of whom are in the vulnerable age group.

As a result of the closure sales of merchandise were reduced and events had to be either postponed or cancelled. This had an enormous impact on the chapel income as, power, phone, heating, cleaning, security alarm and floor maintenance costs continued. In September 2020 an application was made to seek funds towards the ongoing operational costs of the chapel.

Again, we were successful with our application which was very helpful with these ongoing costs.

Museum Update

Lovingly looked after by Nanette Ainge and her team the story and displays in this special place continue to be a popular attraction for people visiting the museum in the chapel.

Visits for Children



Jude Turner has set up a marvellous display for children with suitable educational activities. Visits for children can be booked on our website at www.cnmc.org.nz/bookings/

Currently the museum team and Robyn Bisset are working with the new Christchurch City Council Open Christchurch initiative, a new event to be held on the 15th and 16th May.

A very special thank you goes to Ray, Beverley and Diana for their wonderful contributions to the work of the museum over many years.

Chapel Events

Two weddings have been held in the Chapel to date this year.

Jessica Lowe and Ben Nelson's wedding was held on 9th January in the Chapel. The weather was kind and the chapel gardens were looking splendid and made a wonderful back drop for photos. The gardens were admired by the guests who enjoyed the beauty of the roses and perennials.



Beth Beaver and Mike Orme were married on the 5th February. Beth is a Christchurch Hospital nurse as was her mother. Again, a beautiful day which showcased the chapel and the gardens in their glorious splendor.



Class of '71

On the weekend of the 20th and 21st March the Nurses class of 1971 celebrated their 50th anniversary. This was a wonderful event with the nurses being taken on a tour of the Chapel with Cheryl English. There were many positive comments with some expressing their concern that they did not really know very much about the history of the Chapel, the story of the Marquette, its memorial to women who lost their lives in world wars.

A church service was held on Sunday morning. This service was conducted by Canon David Morrell whom all the nurses remembered from their days at Christchurch Hospital. Lauren Harcourt (one of our

volunteers) played the chapel organ superbly and it was so beautiful hearing the organ being played again.

The service concluded with the song “Ode to Prelim” written by a nurse from the class and sung to the tune of “the Holy City”

Everyone went away with plenty of memories from being in the chapel which they said was the only building left standing since their time at Christchurch Hospital.



Holy Mass

A Holy Mass was celebrated in Latin by Fr. Anthony Mary, a priest from “The Sons of the Most Holy Redeemer” on the 22nd March.

This was attended by approximately 40 adults and children and was arranged by a past Christchurch Hospital trained Nurse. Those who attended were delighted to be able to attend the Mass at such a special chapel.

Open Christchurch

Nurses’ Memorial Chapel has been asked to partake in this new and exciting event that celebrates the best architecture in Christchurch. Our Chapel is a fine example of the Arts and Crafts era and it is exciting to be able to share this with people who have a special interest in architecture.

There are 40 buildings taking part - some privately owned but most have some public access.

Plans are advancing and the chapel will be open from 1000 – 1600 on both days.

A roster is being worked on to cover this. At present we are unsure about the numbers that are likely to come through, but with a trial smaller version last year with only a few buildings available, the visitor numbers were large.

Ian Lochhead, a noted historian, has very kindly agreed to speak on one of the days in our chapel – probably Saturday. At this point we are unable to provide a specific time, but that will be confirmed as soon as possible.

The museum committee has articles of interest relating to the architecture and building of the chapel. There will also be pictures of the substantial work that was done during the reconstruction.

Great New Zealand Bridal Show

This bridal show is a family business and considered to be the ultimate day out for planning the perfect wedding.

Unfortunately, we were unable to be part of this very popular event as our invitation did not enable us to have a display ready in time. However, it did raise the issue that the Friends do not have a publicity brochure that promotes the Memorial Chapel and the gardens for weddings and other events. It is intended that we produce a promotional brochure to be made available at events such as Open Christchurch, Heritage week and the Great New Zealand Bridal Show in 2022.

Video Update

John Chrisstoffels, (*film maker and lecturer at the University of Canterbury School of Film*) and Liz Grant have been working on the editing of the video and are making good progress. We are expecting a 'rough cut', i.e., almost finished and waiting for our approval before the completion work in April.

Website

Thanks to Neil Helliwell payments can now be made through the website. As cheque books are no longer going to be in circulation from the middle of this year this facility has now been made available.

We encourage people to pay their fees through the website now that it is set up. The 'Online Payments' section and can be used to pay fees, deposits for bookings etc. Please ensure the description of the payment is included.

Zoom Meetings

The facility for having a zoom meeting in the chapel is now available. This facility has been set up by Cheryl English and it was used during the class of '71 tour of the chapel on the Saturday and the church service on the Sunday. As a result, five nurses who were unable to attend the reunion due to Covid 19 were able to be part of these two events.

The chapel has a new camera. This can be seen sitting on top and attached to the large TV screen.

This is a plug in and go very easy to use camera and provides a very clear picture when using zoom and filming events in the chapel

Volunteers

A very heartfelt thank you to our volunteers who have enabled us to open the Nurses' Memorial Chapel Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. We have had many visitors who have expressed their appreciation at being able to view the chapel and the number of visitors is steadily increasing as word gets around that the chapel is open. It is great to hear of people stories and the connections they have to the chapel.

Volunteers are key to being able to open the chapel to the public. We are always looking for new volunteers, especially if you can volunteer during the week as we look to expand the number of days the chapel is open. We appreciate the commitment of the volunteers and the current roster enables a commitment from the volunteers of about 2-3 times every 10-12 weeks. We are always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested please contact

Stephanie Cook, 0272509264, stephcook@xtra.co.nz
Andrea Grieve, 0276944705, andreagrieve@xtra.co.nz

Remember to Renew Your Membership

The Friends subscription year is a calendar year therefore subscriptions for 2021 are now due. Your continued support of the chapel is much appreciated by the Nurses' Memorial Chapel Committee.

Post: PO Box 33357, Barrington Mall, Christchurch 8244.

Payments may be made either through internet banking

Or on line through the website

Internet banking: Bank Deposit: **03 1707 0017417 000**

Single: \$20

Double/Family: \$30

Group: \$45

Life membership: \$150

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on Saturday May 22nd 2021 at 10am.

Best wishes

Pip Mason

President